

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2010

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chief Cox at 0730. The following members were present: Charles Schneider, Russ Trimble, Jody Smith, Scott Sanders, Don Cox, Jeff Dumermuth, Jack O'Donnell, Mike Whitsell, Jason Wittgraf, Larry Richards, Paul Barrows, Scott Wiegert, Rob Dehnert, James Sargent, Aaron Chittenden, Chris Shires, Travis Ouverson, Dianna Leete and Michelle McKelvogue.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from August 6, 2010 were accepted with no changes.

FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

Chief Cox complimented Public Works for prompt attention given to Stations 21 and 17 for concrete replacement. Several pads at each station were crumbling and in need of repair, the work was given immediate attention and the quick response is greatly appreciated.

PLANNING / OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Deputy Chief Sargent reported on the City-wide disaster drill held September 16th at Edgewater Retirement Community. He was very pleased with the performance of all departments during the drill. All objectives were accurately met and in a timely manner. Sargent will distribute the After Action Report soon. Edgewater was glad to have been a part of the drill, and according to a nice letter mailed to the Mayor, was impressed with the smooth operations of staff during the drill. Councilmen present congratulated the departments on a job well done.

Chief Cox reported on the Standard of Cover Accreditation Document he has prepared for the Fire Department reaccreditation. The document was distributed to council members, and Chief Cox will bring the document forward as a consent agenda item in a few weeks. Endorsing the document is accepting the document and not committing to making any changes that may be mentioned in the document. Chief Cox further explained that only 2 fire departments in Iowa are currently accredited, West Des Moines and Iowa City. Some benefits to being accredited are continually evaluating standards, procedures and guidelines to be safer and more efficient. There is also a potential of lower insurance premiums for businesses and some residents if the City's ISO rating is reduced.

Captain Wiegert and Lieutenant Ouverson distributed hand-outs and reported on police related activity at bars, night clubs and after hours operations in WDM. There has been a 20% - 30% increase in assaults & calls for service in these establishments. Calls to the Boom Boom Room/The Hangover are particularly numerous and involve physical altercations with club goers and police officers. Consequently, this club was recently closed for three weeks while

security changes were addressed with the owners. The added security and restrictions have not been as effective as hoped. The Councilmen present directed Assistant City Attorney Wittgraf to work with the Police Department to make the existing ordinance more restrictive and safer for club goers and police officers.

Assistant Chief Dehnert reported WDM EMS has not had a financial assistance policy for uninsured or under insured patients. He discussed and distributed hand-outs of a proposed SOP and an income guideline to determine financial assistance. Both the policy and income guidelines are modeled after the Iowa Health System, Mercy Medical Center and WDM Human Services. Currently, only qualified WDM Human Services clients received financial assistance. EMS will bring a policy forward at a future Council Meeting.

CODES / ORDINANCES

Development Coordinator Shires and Assistant City Attorney Wittgraf reported on and distributed an ordinance prohibiting feeding deer. After discussion, it was requested by Councilmen present to refer this to a Council Workshop as soon as practical. The ordinance will be on hold pending the outcome of the Workshop.

COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP / PROGRAMS

Captain Barrows reported the MAC has not proceeded further with the discussion for regionalization efforts in Polk County for animal rescue services.

Chief O'Donnell reported on the progress of the Animal Control Community Committee. He explained the committee is comprised of a diverse, motivated group of individuals. They plan to bring in a representative from both the City of Omaha and City of Cedar Rapids Animal Control to discuss their organizations, services and fee schedules. After discussion, Councilmen present are in favor of using fees to subsidize this program. Chief O'Donnell is also looking into other sources of funding.

Chief Dumermuth reported on the proposed WestCom 28E Agreement Amendment. No substantive changes were made to this document; changes proposed are to clean up the language to reflect way we do business today.

Finance Director Sanders reported on, and distributed a hand-out detailing the City Manager and Finance Director's recommendations for the Homeland Security Agreement. He proposes not signing the agreement, but drafting a letter for a two year involvement. The letter will outline a payment schedule with payments made in two installments each year; an initial installment, with the second installment made after an actual expense audit is received from the previous year. Also included, is a formula where the City of West Des Moines payments may be reduced, based on actual expenditures. Councilmen present are in favor of bringing this forward at the October 18, 2010 Council Meeting.

Captain Barrows reported on a change in the 2010 Bryne Grant application. The Bryne Grant was originally applied for to increase security at Station 19. Barrows plans to amend the grant to use the funds for replacing a GIS server and software package that are outdated to the point where we can no longer obtain support for either. The grant award is expected to be \$21,000.

The cost to replace the server and software are approximately \$30,000. Remainder of the funds will be allocated from another area.

Assistant Chief Dehnert updated the committee on the proposals received in response to the Polk County Leased Radio System RFP. (New hardware is necessary to bring Polk County's dispatch services up to new mandated FCC narrowband regulations beginning January 1, 2013.) Dehnert and Chief Dumermuth outlined the cost for WestCom if they lease through this proposal. Since WestCom owns its communication equipment, other alternatives are being considered. WestCom could update the existing equipment with Motorola as a vendor. Additionally, Polk County may start charging for dispatch service by 2013; a service they currently perform without a service fee. It may be feasible to update and increase capacity of WestCom's communication center at the same time and offer this service to other jurisdictions for a fee. These bids were just received this week, and further evaluation is necessary. Dehnert and Dumermuth will keep the Council comprised of the situation.

OPEN FORUM

Chief Cox reported there is a Fire Fighter Memorial Ceremony this Sunday, October 3rd as part of National Fire Prevention Week kickoff in West Des Moines. Councilman Schneider will be on hand to make comments at the ceremony.

Also as part of National Fire Prevention week, Fire Marshal Whitsell invited everyone to the Pancake Breakfast/Open House Saturday, October 9th from 7:00 AM – Noon at Station 17.

Fire Marshal Whitsell mentioned he is performing the final inspection for Trader Joes later today. Trader Joe employees will begin stocking shelves, and the store will be open for business in about two weeks.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Friday, December 3, 2010 at Station 21, at 0730.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 09:25.



Michelle McKelvey, Recording Secretary

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by committee members should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the West Des Moines City Council. Further, any recommendation the committee may make to the City Council is based on information provided to the committee at this point in time.